YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
28TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, THE JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOREIGN OPERATIONS

PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED:
☐ WASHINGTON
☐ CALIFORNIA

7805951

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

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MARGUERITE J. ARCHIE
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

March 16, 1978

ACTION is assigned to

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please consider this a request to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss the Administration's proposed sale of sixty F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia and fifty F-5E's to Egypt.

The concurrent announcement of aircraft sales to Israel represents a continuation of established U.S. foreign policy. Israel's ability to defend itself must remain unquestioned. The sales to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, however, constitute an untimely policy shift of potentially devastating consequences. At this delicate stage of negotiations between Egypt and Israel, such a move can only serve to exacerbate tensions in the region.

Egypt currently receives advanced fighter aircraft from Britain and France. Consequently, her defense in no way hinges on this sale.

The F-15 is the most sophisticated jet fighter in the world, and its sale to Saudi Arabia threatens to change substantially the Middle East balance of power. It is inaccurate to suggest that the Saudis simply can turn elsewhere to obtain these weapons. No other nation produces the F-15 or an equivalent.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY ESmelzer (mmc) DATE 10/10/85

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENFORCE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE X
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

YVONNE BRATHWAITE B
+ 8 other Congressmen

This does not appear to be the time to add new and untested variables to the delicately balanced Mideast equation. Beginning a military supply relationship with these two Arab nations is inconsistent with the goal of softening the parties' negotiating positions.

I am joined in this request by the concerned leaders listed below. We look forward to the opportunity of discussing this matter with you in greater detail.

Very truly yours,

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Member of Congress

VERNON JORDAN
President, National Urban League

BAYARD RUSTIN
President, A. Philip Randolph Institute

BENJAMIN HOOKS
Executive Director, NAACP

TOM BRADLEY
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

JOSHUA EILBERG
Member of Congress

ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN
Member of Congress

NORMAN F. LENT
Member of Congress

CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress

JAMES H. SCHEUER
Member of Congress

HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress

TED WEISS
Member of Congress

SIDNEY YATES
Member of Congress

YBB/ly